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# U.S. Department of Justice



## United States Attorney's Office Eastern District of Virginia

*Chuck Rosenberg - United States Attorney*

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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### **Reputed Leader of Bloods Street Gang Sentenced**

(Norfolk, VA) Ashim Ricks, age 25, of Norfolk, Virginia, has been sentenced to 384 months in federal prison without the possibility of parole for his conviction upon a plea of guilty on March 14th, to a drug conspiracy involving crack cocaine and being a convicted felon in possession of a firearm. Chuck Rosenberg, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, made the announcement after Ricks was sentenced today by United States District Court Judge Raymond A. Jackson.

The federal charges stemmed from a murder investigation by the Norfolk Police Department of Ricks, a reputed leader of the Bloods street gang in the Park Place neighborhood. A search warrant at his Norfolk residence resulted in the recovery of a large quantity of crack cocaine and a firearm. Further investigation by federal agents and local police demonstrated that Ricks had been operating a drug ring out of the Park Place neighborhood since 1999. Ricks was indicted last September in federal court with his girlfriend and co-defendant Pamela Banks. Banks was sentenced on May 10, 2006, to 10 years in prison.

After the sentencing, United States Attorney Rosenberg stated: "Armed drug dealers ought to pay attention to this. We are out there, and have every intention of cleaning up the neighborhoods that they terrorize."

The investigation was conducted by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the Norfolk Police Department. Assistant United States Attorney William D. Muhr prosecuted the case for the United States.

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